

V Newcastle upon Tyne
First Select Soc. 3, 4.
Frederick John.



No.

V Newcastle upon Tyne
First Select Soc. 3, 4.
Frederick John.



First Select
Order of the Free and Easy Jones
15

INTRODUCTION.

THE motives which led the First Select Society of this Order to form themselves into a body, for the reciprocal relief of each other, have induced us to follow the same plan. Pleased with the success which has crowned their laudable efforts, and knowing that their stipulated number is nearly complete, we, whose names are hereto subscribed, agree to pursue the path they have pointed out, and follow their example, hoping to reap similar comforts, when time shall have matured our infant society.

The code of laws framed for the governance of the Select, No. I. appear to us to have been compiled with much judgment, and our wish is to act in unity with the brotherhood composing that society; we therefore acquiesce generally in the construction of the same,

(6)

same, subject to the few alterations following, and to such as we shall deem expedient to adopt from time to time, for the furtherance of our own branch of this benevolent undertaking.

ARTICLE

ARTICLES, &c.

ARTICLE I.

THAT this society shall consist of FREE AND EASY JOHNS only, who shall each pay into the fund the sum of Ten Shillings and Sixpence, in manner following, viz. the sum of Five Shillings and Sixpence on the night of admission, and the further sum of Five Shillings at the next quarterly meeting.

II.

That on the third Monday of March instant the society shall form itself, and proceed to chuse two stewards, and a committee of three, to assist them occasionally; that the said stewards and committee shall be chosen according to their seniority on the register, and remain in office one year, (if they shall so long live), at the expiration of which term they shall make up their accounts to be delivered to their successors, together with every thing the property of the society.

III.

III.

That a clerk or secretary shall be chosen by the majority of the members, for keeping the books of the society, &c. the salary of which clerk or secretary to be at the discretion of the same, and to remain in office during their pleasure.

IV.

That, after the said third Monday in this instant March, if any person (being a FREE AND EASY JOHN) shall be desirous of being admitted a member of this society, he must give notice of his intention to the stewards for the time being, who shall apprise the society thereof at their next meeting after such notice; when, if it shall appear that he is not more than fifty years of age, and there shall be a majority of voices in his favour, he shall be admitted accordingly, on paying the entrance money stipulated in Article I.

V.

That if any member chosen steward or committeeman shall refuse to act as such, he or they shall forfeit Two Shillings and Sixpence to the fund, and the next on the list shall be appointed to fill such declined office or offices; and if the stewards or committee-men shall neglect to attend on any of the quarterly meetings, or to send their keys respectively, before eight o'clock, they shall forfeit One Shilling above any other fine imposed by these articles.

VI.

VI.

That there shall be four stated meetings in the year; namely, the third Monday in March, the third Monday in June, the third Monday in September, and the third Monday in December; when all payments shall be made exacted by these articles. That the principal meeting-day shall be the third Monday in March, when the members of this society shall meet at eleven o'clock in the forenoon of the same day, and every absentee shall be fined Sixpence. That a dinner shall be provided, towards the discharge of which, and malt liquor, each member shall contribute in equal proportions as the exigences of the times may require.

VII.

That on every quarterly meeting each member shall pay the sum of Three Shillings into the fund, and Fourpence to be spent during meeting hours, which shall be from seven to nine in the evening, (except the principal meeting day), or, on failure thereof, shall forfeit Sixpence, unless the said Three Shillings and Fourpence shall be paid by any other person; for a second omission of the like kind, One Shilling; and for a third, suffer expulsion.

VIII.

That the society shall meet in the Lodge of FREE AND EASY JOHNS in NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE; and that a strong box shall be immediately provided, wherein the fund, and all books, papers, writings and
 accompts

accounts belonging to the society shall be deposited. That to the said box shall be affixed three different locks, with keys thereunto; one of which keys shall be kept by each of the stewards, and the other by the landlord of the house, he giving the society satisfactory security for the same.

IX.

The members of this society, intending to be scrupulously attentive to the characters and circumstances of those they mean to admit therein, avoid particularly specifying the different fines to be levied for improprieties; but agree that every indecorum, which shall be committed while transacting business, shall be punished by such pecuniary fine as a majority of the members present on the night of the commission of such indecorum shall deem adequate, not to exceed Five Shillings, nor to be less than One Shilling.

X.

That no part of the fund shall be appropriated to any purpose whatsoever for the space of twelve months from its first commencement, or longer, if the society shall think it necessary; except for the purchase of such boxes, locks, keys, books, papers, and other matters which shall be absolutely wanted. And no member shall ever partake of any benefit therefrom, till he has been a subscribing member twelve months, and has, during that time, conformed to all and every the rules and articles of the society:

XI.

That every member who shall have conformed to the last article in every respect shall, when afterwards afflicted with sickness, or be rendered incapable to prosecute his avocation, be allowed the weekly sum of Six Shillings out of the fund during such his incapability, provided it does not exceed six months; and after that period the weekly sum of Three Shillings until his restoration; and prior to any such emolument being derived, notice must be given to either of the two stewards by such claimant.

XII.

That one of the stewards or committee-men who shall live nearest such claimant shall visit him within three days of such notice, if within the parishes of Newcastle or Gateshead, and shall pay him one week's allowance in advance, and shall continue to repeat such allowance weekly, or in failure thereof shall forfeit One Shilling to the fund; but if such sick member shall live at a greater distance, he shall cause his notice of sickness to be attested by the minister or church-warden of the place where he resides, when his allowance shall be sent to him with all possible expedition.

XIII.

That if any member shall get drunk, quarrel, or be at work during the time he is in the receipt of his weekly allowance, or counterfeit sickness, and thereby impose upon the society, he shall be excluded;

cluded; and if either the stewards or committeemen shall know them so offending, and not immediately stop their allowance, they shall be excluded.

XIV.

That when any member, through sickness, &c. shall receive the allowance of Six Shillings or Three Shillings per week from the fund, he shall, notwithstanding, cause his quarterly subscriptions to be regularly paid; but shall not be fined for non-attendance. And when any member of this society shall, through age or infirmities, become unable to work and support himself, and shall by the judgment of a physician or surgeon, approved of by the society, be deemed incurable, such impotent member shall, after the first twelve months of his being upon the sick list, have an allowance of Two Shillings and Sixpence per week only, out of the society's public stock, during his life; and shall be excused from paying his quarterly subscriptions, and fines for absence, on these days: and when he dies, the same sums shall be paid as in article the fifteenth.

XV.

That on the death of any member of this society, the stewards shall pay out of the fund Two Pounds Ten Shillings for defraying his funeral expences: and, if a married man, they shall also pay to his widow a legacy of Five Pounds Ten Shillings; if a bachelor or widower, the like sum shall be paid to such person or persons as he shall appoint in writing; but in case they shall neglect to make such appoint-

ment,

ment, then the said sum shall be paid to such person or persons as the society shall judge to have the greatest right to the same. And on every one of these occasions, each member shall pay One Shilling to the fund at the next quarterly meeting, or on refusal thereof to be excluded.

XVI.

That if any steward or other member shall embezzle any part of the fund belonging to the society, or shall make any unjust charge thereon, such offence shall be absolutely punished with expulsion.

XVII.

That malt liquor only shall be used at any of the meetings alluded to in these articles; and if any member chuse to drink any other sort, he must pay for the same over and above his quota as before mentioned.

XVIII.

That this society shall not be dissolved as long as any three members are agreeable to continue and support it; and any member proposing to break up or dissolve the same, shall be fined Five Shillings.

XIX.

That all matters and things which may hereafter occur, and are not provided for already by these articles, shall be determined by a majority of subscribers at a quarterly meeting, the society leaving themselves at liberty at such meetings, and no other

(14)

time, to make such new laws as may appear expedient, or to repeal any of these that may prove useless, or unnecessary.

XX.

That a sufficient number of copies of these articles be forthwith printed ; one of which shall be given to each member on admission, he paying Threepence for the same ; and every member shall produce his copy on the aforeaid principal meeting-day, or be fined Threepence.



MEETING

15

MEETING DAYS.

The third Monday in March.

The third Monday in June.

The third Monday in September.

The third Monday in December.

PRINCIPAL MEETING-DAY.

The third Monday in March.

£500. 0. 0.

Gen

Contingency

Contingency

Contingency

Have the pleasure to be
Gentlemen

Your most Obedt

And a friend

